

# Examiner

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## Annual Posada set for Dec. 14

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Staff Writer

The fourth annual Spring Branch Posada, featuring food, live music by popular performers, a traditional Mexican pastorela, the breaking of a piñata and, for the first time, snow, will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 14 in the parking lot of the Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, 7960 Long Point.

The annual Posada is the brainchild of Spring Branch businessman Victor Alvarez, a promoter of the area's multicultural makeup, and a beneficiary of Wal-Mart's financial assistance.

A highlight of this year's Posada will be Wal-Mart's donation of \$85,000 for education in Spring Branch, including \$1,000 each for 50 outstanding teachers and \$5,000 for the Spring Branch Family Development Center.

A Posada also will be presented this year on Dec. 13 at the Wal-Mart Super Center at Interstate 45 and Almeda in Pasadena.

Performing in both will be Gustavo Venegas on keyboards, local Tejano favorite Jimmy Gonzalez, singers Linda and Lily Olmos, world-renown marimba player Fausto Banos and the acting troupe Somos Todos, who will perform the traditional Pastorela skit. The Ridgcrest Elementary School choir will sing the "Posada Song."

Special snow blowers will create the look of snow even if the weatherman fails to produce any of the real stuff.

The Posada celebration begins Dec. 16 in Mexico with nine days of celebration, followed by the presentation of gifts on Dia de los Tres

see POSADA, page 10

## Posada from page 1

Reyes Magos or Three Kings Day, on Jan. 5.

Posada is Spanish for inn. The pastorela skit represents the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, how

they are turned away many times, and, finally, the triumph of good over evil and the joyous celebration of the birth of the Christ-child, culminating with the breaking

of a star-shaped piñata by a child.

Co-sponsors of the Posada are the Spring Branch Super Neighborhoods and the city of Houston.

The entire evening is free and there will be drawings for prizes, including televisions and a free plane ticket to Mexico.